

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1, 7, 10 and 12-16 have been amended, no claims have been canceled or added.

In the Office Action, dated December 23rd, 2004, the Examiner has objected to the drawings. Figure 2B has been amended to obviate the objection. Applicant has included a replacement sheet of the amended drawing along with this amendment. It is noted that Applicant takes no position on the appropriateness of the objection! however, these changes do not affect the scope of claimed subject matter, and no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Likewise, because scope is not affected, there is no prosecution history estoppel.

The Examiner has objected to the specification, and has additionally objected to claim 1 for various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification and the claims to address the objections of the Examiner. The Applicant believes the amendments obviate the objections, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification and claims. It is additionally noted Applicant takes no position on the appropriateness of the objection! however, these changes do not affect the scope of claimed subject matter, and no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Likewise, because scope is not affected, there is no prosecution history estoppel.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims to address the objections of the Examiner. The Applicant believes the amendments obviate the objections, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the claims. It is additionally noted that Applicant takes no position on the

appropriateness of the objection; however, these changes do not affect the scope of claimed subject matter and no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Likewise, because scope is not affected, there is no prosecution history estoppel.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gumb (U.S. Patent No. 5,172,805, hereinafter "Gumb"). This rejection by the Examiner is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Gumb* does not disclose each and every element of the rejected claims, and, therefore, a *prima facie* case under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has not been established. For example, Applicant is unable to locate 'contact rod [215]' cited by the Examiner, and 'wing plate [210]' as referred to by the Examiner.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that because *Gumb* does not disclose each and every element of the rejected claims, a *prima facie* case under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has not been established, and claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 2-16 are in a condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

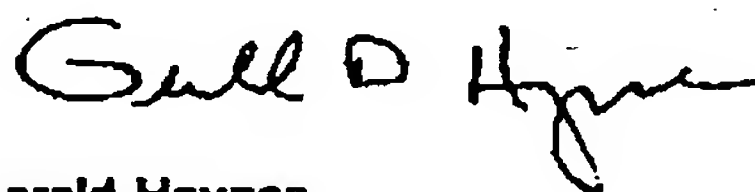
Attorney Docket: 112P14010

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 640-8475. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3130.

Respectfully submitted,



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